

[1st August 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Braille plates for use by visually impaired at National Monuments

1199. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for preparing Braille plates for providing information about our national monuments for visually impaired persons;
- (b) if so, by when and the places it would be implemented first;
- (c) whether the HARK system has not worked successfully at Red Fort; and
- (d) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present in this regard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

New areas identified for development as tourist places

1200. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the new areas identified for development as tourist places in the country;
- (b) the progress made in this regard; and
- (c) the details of measures taken by Government to promote tourism in such areas particularly in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has identified 21 Travel Circuits, 12 Tourist destinations and 5 Special Tourism Areas in consultation with the State Governments for development of Tourism in the country.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India has a